

# TEAM

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## OFFICE HOURS

Next Session: October 13, 12:00 p.m. with Assessment Team

Data gleaned from the 2022/23 assessment survey indicated DACs, technology directors and other SAU administrators value the monthly office hours provided by the assessment team. As a result, the office hours will continue to be implemented, the second Wednesday of the month. Tentative session topics can be located on the assessment webpages. Slide decks will once again be provided in advance.

# OCTOBER

# 2022

# ASSESSMENT MONTHLY UPDATE

## Professional Learning Opportunities

As the weather turns cooler and the leaves change color, the first state assessment administration window is also upon us with the NWEA MAP Growth beginning on October 3rd. The Assessment Team has been busy throughout September offering trainings, providing technical assistance, hosting office hours and connecting (virtually) with colleagues across the state. Here are some upcoming opportunities to connect during the month of October:

Sessions & Opportunities to Connect	Date/Time	Audience	Join us
Overview of the Alternate Academic Achievement Standards	10/4/22 1:30-2:30pm	Educators of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities	<a href="#">Register for the session</a>
Assessment Team Office Hours	10/13/22 (date change) 12-1 pm	District Assessment Coordinators, Assessment Administrators	<a href="#">Register for the session</a>
Request Technical Assistance!			<a href="#">Request technical assistance</a>

## Assessment Calendar Now Available

The assessment calendar for the 2022-2023 school year is now available. The [schedule is available on our web site](#) and as a printable PDF.



## MSAA & MSAA Science

MSAA Science reports will be available via the MSAA Platform from October 17th-28th. Alternate Assessment Coordinators with district level access during the Spring 2022 administration will need to log in to the platform to download the SAU, school and student level reports.

Additionally, there are resources available on the Maine DOE/MSAA webpage to support educators and families with accessing and understanding these reports:

- [Report Download instructions](#): Step by Step Guide for Maine SAUs about how to download MSAA Reports.
- [Understanding and Utilizing MSAA Score Reports](#): a brief recorded presentation providing an overview of the different reports available at the SAU, school and student levels.
- [Score Report Interpretation Guide](#): A detailed guide to the MSAA reports which also includes writing rubrics and performance level descriptors.
- [MSAA Parent Guides by Grade Level](#): These family resources provide an overview of the assessment, the importance of academic instruction, potential instructional supports, and ideas for collaboration between families and teachers.



## ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Believe it or not, we are entering the pre-administration season for ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs! Read on for important updates and trainings beginning in October which pertain to English language proficiency assessments for Maine's multilingual learners.

## ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Initial materials orders will be generated again this year by Maine DOE, utilizing state enrollment data.

Please confirm that all students identified as multilingual learners have been given an EL Start Date in local enrollment as well as Synergy, the state enrollment system.

### Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test 2023

Stay informed and plan ahead for the Alternate ACCESS Field Test, which will be in addition to the regular annual Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. Review this news article and Q & A to learn more:

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test: [Coming to schools in early 2023](#). Sign up for news updates at News Signup at WIDA and be sure to check for updates posted in the DAC digest.

How do I get my questions about the field test answered? [Attend the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test Q&A Webinar](#) on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 2-3:30pm ET. Go to the [Webinars](#) page in the WIDA Secure Portal for more information.

Maine DOE and WIDA will be offering a professional development session for teacher leaders and administrators on the topic of planning with the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework.

### [Register for the Workshop Here!](#)

Teacher Leaders: Planning with the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework	
Wednesday, 11/30/22 3-4pm	Introductory Webinar (Virtual)
Tuesday, 12/6/22 9am-3pm	In-person workshop, facilitated by WIDA 90 Blossom Street, Augusta Maine Deering Building, Room 101

[For more information on the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, click here!](#)



## Transition to a Through-Year Assessment: FAQs

Below are some of the most frequently asked questions from SAUs regarding the transition from MAP Growth to the Maine Through Year Assessment. A more detailed list of FAQs and the video recording and slides from our Sept. 21st NWEA transition webinar can be found on our Maine Reading and Math Assessments webpage.

### Why are we making this transition from MAP Growth to the Maine Through Year Assessment?

The NWEA MAP Growth assessment was adopted as an emergency measure during the pandemic to meet schools' needs for immediate, actionable data. MAP Growth was an interim assessment while the Department of Education worked collaboratively with NWEA to develop a state assessment solution that meets all federal requirements.

In order for a state assessment to meet federal peer review requirements, it must include a criterion-referenced, summative portion that aligns with grade-level state standards. Because the NWEA MAP Growth assessment is a norm-referenced assessment, it does not meet these federal requirements and, as such, is not a long-term assessment solution.

### How did the transition from 3rd year of high school to 2nd year of high school come about for the NWEA assessment?

The Department received feedback from Maine educators who shared the number and timing of assessments for students in their 3rd year of high school posed a challenge with scheduling and participation. Additionally, many high school students participate in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II courses rather than a generalized math course. Shifting the administration of the state mathematics assessment to 2nd year of high school ensures a shorter elapsed timeframe from when a student may have received more generalized mathematics instruction to specific mathematics course instruction. Taking these elements into consideration, the Maine general reading and math assessments were shifted to 2nd year of high school.

The fall NWEA MAP Growth assessment administration window opens Monday, October 3rd, and closes on Friday, October 28th. The Assessment Team is providing an informal 30-minute session on Wednesday, October 5th, for schools and SAUs to stop in and get answers to any MAP Growth pre-administration and administration questions you may have. Representatives from NWEA will be present at this session to answer your questions. Here is the [registration link](#).

Please note that the focus of this session is the MAP Growth assessment. NWEA and the Assessment Team are collaborating to provide future sessions related to the transition to the Maine Through Year Assessment.



### Resources for Interpreting and Using NWEA MAP Growth Data

As SAUs review their MAP Growth data from the Spring 2022 administration and upcoming Fall 2022 administration within the NWEA MAP Growth platform (MARC), NWEA provides several useful resources for interpreting and utilizing data to inform instruction. Those resources can be found in the Your Data section of the NWEA MAP Growth Help Center, which can also be accessed through the MARC platform. These include tools for understanding NWEA MAP Growth reports as well as instructional resources.



## Maine Science

### Assessment Blueprints and Grade-Specific Achievement Level Descriptors Now Available!

Assessment blueprints and achievement level descriptors (ALDs) are now available for the Maine Science Assessment for grades 5, 8, and HS under Resources for Teachers and Curriculum Coordinators on the [Maine Science Assessment webpage](#).

All items on the Maine Science Assessment are aligned to a science topic and to a specific performance expectation. To ensure ample coverage of all grade-level science topics, assessment blueprints specify targets for the minimum and maximum number of score points aligned to each topic.

The Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) are a guide to describe the four levels of student achievement: Well Below, Below, At, and Above State Expectations. The ALDs are written to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and are grouped to show the natural connections between Disciplinary Core Ideas. To support the intent of the standards for science instruction and assessment in Maine, all Science and Engineering Practices and Cross-Cutting Concepts can be used interchangeably with any of the Disciplinary Core Ideas. In the ALD documents, the intent is to select Science and Engineering Practices and Cross-Cutting Concepts to enhance the application of the Disciplinary Core Ideas to make sense of a scenario or phenomenon. These documents are designed to support the effective teaching and assessment of science and engineering.



### Spring 2022 Score Results

Spring 2022 student results reports will be released later this fall with educators able to review within Maine's Assessment & Accountability Reporting System (MAARS). At this time, New Meridian is applying the cut scores determined at the standard setting workshop this summer. Once student results are provided to the Department of Education, we will complete quality assurance checks and then submit to Focal Point, our reporting vendor, for release in MAARS.

### Practice Assessments

Maine Science [practice assessments and tutorials are available](#) on the Maine Science website under the Resources menu and will be open throughout the school year.



### NEO & SYNERGY Reminders

A general reminder to ensure that contact information for teaching and non-teaching roles is updated within NEO. Instructions to update SAU roles (including DACs) are located within the following document: [Updating Staff Contact Information](#). Please reach out to the MEDMS helpdesk with any questions or concerns.



## NAEP

The 2022 NAEP Mathematics and Reading results will be officially released on Monday, October 24, 2022, by NCES Commissioner Dr. Peggy Carr. National and state results will be released. More information regarding the release, related briefings, and pre-release workshops will be shared as details become available.

Last month, the National Assessment Governing Board released the results for the NAEP Long Term Trend (LTT) Age 9 assessment of Mathematics and Reading on September 1, 2022. A recording of the virtual event, the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Long-Term Trend results for 9-year-olds—the first national snapshot of student learning during the pandemic—is located on the [National Assessment Governing Board's website.](#)

## International Assessments

### PISA

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 administration window is open from October 3 to November 25, 2022. Two Maine schools were selected for the 2022 administration. Selected 15-year-old students participate in mathematics, reading, science, and financial literacy assessments.

### TIMSS

The Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2023 administration window has been revised. Administration of the assessment will now take place between March 20 and May 31, 2023. TIMSS is administered to grade 4 and grade 8 students at sampled schools. Three Maine schools have been selected for participation in the TIMSS.

